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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AF-00 DS-00 TEDE-00 SS-00 DSCC-00
SAS-00 /001W
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9448
INFO NSC WASHDC
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 002387

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS
NAIROBI FOR TERRY PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/10/11
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [Z1](#)
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE: GRIGSBY STAFFDEL MEETS WITH MDC
LEADERSHIP

CLASSIFIED BY POLITICAL OFFICER TODD FAULK FOR REASONS:
1.5 (B) AND (D).

[11.](#) (C) ON AUGUST 6, SENATE STAFFDEL, LED BY GARRETT
GRIGSBY, MET WITH THE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE
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(MDC) LEADERSHIP IN THEIR NEW DOWNTOWN HEADQUARTERS.
MDC PRESIDENT MORGAN TSVANGIRAI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
SECRETARY-GENERAL WELSHMAN NCUBE, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

SIPDIS
ISAAC MAPOSA, INCOMING ELECTION COORDINATOR NOMORE
SIBANDA, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS SECRETARY FORMAN FOTO,
AND PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT GANDI MUDZINGWA. CHARGE
AUBREY HOOKS AND POLOFFS ACCOMPANIED STAFFDEL TO THE
MEETING.

THE SITUATION

[12.](#) (C) AFTER INITIAL PLEASANTRIES, TSVANGIRAI OPENED BY
SAYING THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE IS
"UNPRECEDENTED" AND THE COUNTRY IS SLIDING INTO
DICTATORSHIP. HE OUTLINED THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE
FORMATION OF THE MDC AND THE GOVERNMENT'S HEAVY-HANDED
RESPONSE IN ATTEMPTING TO SUPPRESS THE OPPOSITION. EVEN
AFTER THE MDC WON 57 OUT OF 120 ELECTED SEATS IN
PARLIAMENT -- AN ELECTION IN WHICH THE MDC WAS
SHORTCHANGED, HE ADDED -- THE GOVERNMENT STILL REFUSES
TO DEAL WITH THE MDC AS A LEGITIMATE OPPOSITION PARTY.
TSVANGIRAI ARGUED THAT THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL

SIPDIS
ELECTION WILL BE THE MOST CRITICAL IN ZIMBABWE'S
HISTORY. A FREE AND FAIR ENVIRONMENT IS CRUCIAL TO ITS
LEGITIMACY; IF THE ELECTION IS FRAUDULENT, ZIMBABWE
COULD "GO OVER THE PRECIPICE."

THE BILL

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[13.](#) (C) ON THE ISSUE OF THE ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT (ZDERA), TSVANGIRAI AGREED WITH
THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE BILL HAS BEEN FORMULATED, BUT
HE FEARED THAT IT WOULD BE "POLITICIZED AS A SANCTIONS
BILL" BY THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT THE MDC CANNOT
TELL THE U.S. HOW TO DRAFT THE LEGISLATION, BUT OPINED
THAT BROAD ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ARE "NOT AN OPTION" IN THE
CURRENT DETERIORATING ECONOMY. THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS
"GIVEN HOPE TO ZIMBABWE," AND HAS FOCUSED MUCH
INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE COUNTRY, WHICH IT NEEDS
TO GO IN A NEW DIRECTION, HE REMARKED.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WILL BE CRUCIAL

[14.](#) (C) ON THE ISSUE OF SENDING INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS
FOR NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION, THE MDC PRESIDENT SAID THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST INSIST ON THEM, EVEN IF THE

GOZ OBJECTS AND CREATES OBSTACLES TO THEIR ARRIVAL. ISAAC MAPOSA ADDED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT TRY TO SEND NDI, IRI, OR OTHER NGOS AS OBSERVERS BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT BE ACCREDITED. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USG, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OR STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES, BE SENT AS THEY WILL BE ACCREDITED IN THE END. ONLY ACCREDITED OBSERVERS CAN ENTER POLLING PLACES AND TRAVEL FREELY FROM PLACE TO PLACE, MAPOSA NOTED. THEY SHOULD ALSO COME A FEW TIMES SEVERAL MONTHS AHEAD OF THE ELECTION BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT LIKELY SEE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY ON THE POLLING DAYS. EVEN A MONTH IN ADVANCE, THE CAMPAIGN WILL BASICALLY BE OVER. THE MDC PRESIDENT REMARKED THAT

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THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS BEFOREHAND WILL GIVE ZIMBABWEANS HOPE AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO GO OUT AND VOTE ON ELECTION DAY. WHEN ASKED IF SOUTH AFRICA PLANNED TO SEND OBSERVERS, TSVANGIRAI THOUGHT IT WOULD. SOUTH AFRICA SENT A PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVER MISSION FOR LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS. A NUMBER OF TRADE UNIONS AND NGOS FROM SOUTH AFRICA WENT AS WELL, BUT MAPOSA BELIEVED THESE WOULD BE REFUSED ACCREDITATION THIS TIME.

15. (C) TSVANGIRAI CONTINUED, SAYING ZIMBABWE ALSO NEEDS ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ITS ELECTORAL PROCESS, BECAUSE ANYTHING LESS THAN MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY IN THE PROCESS WILL ONLY AID THE RULING PARTY. THE WEST SHOULD HELP IN ENSURING THAT THE 1.5 MILLION ZIMBABWEANS LIVING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY ARE NOT DISENFRANCHISED AS THE GOZ IS ATTEMPTING TO DO. IT'S NO SECRET THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT ZIMBABWE ARE NOT SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT IS IN THE GOZ'S INTEREST TO MAKE SURE THERE IS NO MECHANISM FOR THEM TO VOTE.

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DON'T LET THE GOZ OFF THE HOOK

16. (C) WELSHMAN NCUBE OPINED THAT IN ITS DEALINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND OTHER SADC STATES, THE U.S. SHOULD MAKE

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CLEAR THAT IT WILL NOT BE "BUSINESS AS USUAL" WITH ZIMBABWE IF IT HOLDS A FRAUDULENT ELECTION. IT MUST ALSO MAKE CLEAR THAT A COUP D'ETAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE, EITHER. NCUBE STATED THAT ZANU-PF IS PREPARING TO GO TO WAR IF THE MDC WINS THE ELECTION, AND THAT THERE ARE MANY ZIMBABWEANS WHO WOULD RATHER STARVE THAN RISK GOING BACK TO WAR.

SECURITY HELP

17. (C) TSVANGIRAI STATED THAT THE MDC DOES NOT PLAN TO HOLD ANY MORE PUBLIC RALLIES UNTIL THE DATE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS ANNOUNCED. PARTICIPANTS WILL JUST BE TARGETS OF REGIME-SPONSORED VIOLENCE, HE LAMENTED. AS FOR THE MDC'S OWN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, TSVANGIRAI NOTED THAT IT HAS ITS OWN MECHANISMS IN

SIPDIS
PLACE, AND IT IS TRYING TO INCREASE THE QUALITY AND NUMBERS IN ITS SECURITY APPARATUS. THE MDC SOMETIMES

EVEN INFORMS THE POLICE OF ITS MOVEMENTS AND DEMANDS ESCORTS, GAMBLING THAT IT WILL GET THEM AT LEAST SOME OF THE TIME. WHEN ASKED WHAT THE U.S. CAN DO TO HELP, MAPOSA STATED THAT THE U.S. MAY BE LIMITED BY ZIMBABWE'S RESTRICTIVE POLITICAL PARTIES FINANCE ACT, BUT AN ARMORED CAR FOR TSVANGIRAI IS ESSENTIAL, AND RADIOS, BULLET-PROOF VESTS, PRINTING MATERIALS, AND A SATELLITE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM ARE ALSO NEEDED. GRIGSBY POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS A U.S. LAW THAT PERMITS SECURITY TRAINING FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS. GRIGSBY SUGGESTED THAT THE MDC, EVEN THE RULING PARTY, COULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH TRAINING. TSVANGIRAI APPEARED VERY RECEPTIVE TO THE

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IDEA AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT.

COMMENT

18. (C) THE MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL AND TSVANGIRAI DELIVERED HIS POINTS IN A CONFIDENT AND REASONED MANNER, WITH AN EYE TOWARD ELICITING GREATER SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. HIS DEPUTIES WERE ALSO WELL PREPARED WITH SPECIFIC IDEAS ON HOW THE U.S. COULD AID THE MDC IN ITS CAUSE. THE MDC IS CLEARLY MORE FOCUSED THAN IT WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR ON WHAT IS NEEDED TO OVERCOME PRESIDENT MUGABE'S TREMENDOUS ADVANTAGES AS INCUMBENT. END COMMENT.

19. (U) THIS CABLE WAS NOT CLEARED BY STAFFDEL BEFORE ITS DEPARTURE FROM HARARE.

HOOKS

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